REMARKS

Claims 1 through 20 are pending in the case.

To reduce the number of issues in the case, Applicant has amended claims 8 and 15 to conform the language in claims 8 and 15 to language found in claim 1. As this language is already found in claim 1, Applicant believes the Amendment reduces issues in the case and simplifies examination. Also, as the language is already found in claim 1, the Amendment raises no new issues.

Examiner has rejected claims 1 through 20 under 35 U.S.C.§ 102 (e) as being anticipated by US 2002/0054220 A1 (Takeuchi). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and requests reconsideration.

Below, Applicant specifically addresses the new arguments raised by Examiner and discusses subject matter in the independent claims 1, 8 and 15 not disclosed or suggested by Takeuchi. On the basis of this, Applicant believes all the claims are patentable over the cited art.

Discussion of Independent Claim 1

Claim 1 sets out a method that includes capturing an image using a color filter array, and detecting a plurality of color components of light incident upon a color sensor. The color sensor is separate from and not part of the color filter array. This is not disclosed or suggested by Takeuchi.

Takeuchi discloses an image pick-up element that has a plurality of color filters. See Takeuchi at [0004]. Takeuchi does not disclose or suggest use of a color sensor that is separate from and not part of the plurality of color filters.

In Examiner's discussion of claim 8, Examiner asserts that there are two image pick-up data units. Examiner argues that "image pickup data unit '113'" is separate from and is not part of "image pickup data unit '101'". This is a very clear misreading of Takeuchi.

Takeuchi makes it very clear that there is only one image pickup data unit. Compare paragraph [0033] with paragraph [0048].

In paragraph [0033], Takeuchi very clearly indicates that reference number "101" refers to an "image pickup data input *terminal*". Image pickup data input *terminal* 101 receives image input data obtained by the (one and only) image pickup element.

In paragraph [0048], Takeuchi very clearly indicates that reference number "113" refers to an "image pickup data input *terminal*". Image pickup data input *terminal* 113 receives image input data obtained by the (one and only) image pickup element.

Takeuchi performs color balance using the conventional technique of examining data within the image. In claim 1 of the present invention, however, a color sensor is used to generate data for the calculation of white balance. The color sensor is separate from and not part of the array of color filters used to capture the image. This innovation of using a separate color sensor to generate data for the calculation of white balance is not disclosed or suggested by Takeuchi.

Discussion of Independent Claim 8

Claim 8 sets out a device that takes an image. The device includes a color filter array that captures an image. The device also includes a color sensor that detects a plurality of color components of incident light. The color sensor is separate from and not part of the color filter array. This is not disclosed or suggested by Takeuchi.

Takeuchi discloses an image pick-up element that has a plurality of color filters. See Takeuchi at [0004]. Takeuchi does not disclose or suggest use of a color sensor that is separate from and not part of the plurality of color filters.

Examiner asserts that there are two image pick-up data units disclosed by Takeuchi. Examiner argues that "image pickup data unit '113'" is separate from and is not part of "image pickup data unit '101'". This is a very clear misreading of Takeuchi.

Takeuchi makes it very clear that there is only one image pickup data unit. Compare paragraph [0033] with paragraph [0048].

In paragraph [0033], Takeuchi very clearly indicates that reference number "101" refers to an "image pickup data input *terminal*". Image pickup data input *terminal* 101 receives image input data obtained by the (one and only) image pickup element.

In paragraph [0048], Takeuchi very clearly indicates that reference number "113" refers to an "image pickup data input *terminal*". Image pickup

data input *terminal* 113 receives image input data obtained by the (one and only) image pickup element.

Takeuchi performs color balance using the conventional technique of examining data within the image. In claim 8 of the present invention, however, a color sensor is used to generate data for the calculation of white balance. The color sensor is separate from and not part of the array of color filters used to capture the image. This innovation of using a separate color sensor to generate data for the calculation of white balance is not disclosed or suggested by Takeuchi.

Discussion of Independent Claim 15

Claim 15 sets out device that takes an image. The device includes a color filter array means for capturing an image. The device also includes a color sensor means for detecting a plurality of color components of incident light. The color sensor means is separate from and not part of the color filter array means. This is not disclosed or suggested by Takeuchi.

Takeuchi discloses an image pick-up element that has a plurality of color filters. See Takeuchi at [0004]. Takeuchi does not disclose or suggest use of a color sensor that is separate from and not part of the plurality of color filters.

In Examiner's discussion of claim 8, Examiner asserts that there are two image pick-up data units. Examiner argues that "image pickup data unit '113'" is separate from and is not part of "image pickup data unit '101'". This is a very clear misreading of Takeuchi.

Takeuchi makes it very clear that there is only one image pickup data unit. Compare paragraph [0033] with paragraph [0048].

In paragraph [0033], Takeuchi very clearly indicates that reference number "101" refers to an "image pickup data input *terminal*". Image pickup data input *terminal* 101 receives image input data obtained by the (one and only) image pickup element.

In paragraph [0048], Takeuchi very clearly indicates that reference number "113" refers to an "image pickup data input *terminal*". Image pickup data input *terminal* 113 receives image input data obtained by the (one and only) image pickup element.

Takeuchi performs color balance using the conventional technique of examining data within the image. In claim 15 of the present invention, however, a color sensor means is used to generate data for the calculation of white balance. The color sensor means is separate from and not part of the color filter array means used to capture the image. This innovation of using a separate color sensor means to generate data for the calculation of white balance is not disclosed or suggested by Takeuchi.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this Amendment has placed the present application in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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